

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081125
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN:LCB
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 081125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CLAIMS/GOLD: JOURNALISTS
TREATMENT

1. IN RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL QUERIES INSPIRED BY BINDER
STORY ON CLAIMS/GOLD IN NYT 4/10 AND MURRAY SEEGER STORY
ON JOURNALISTS VISA CONDITIONS IN WASH POST 4/11,
FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SENATOR
LONG'S AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY
ON CZECHOSLOVAK CLAIMS/GOLD?

2. WE ARE AWARE OF THE INTEREST BOTH SENATOR LONG
AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK HAVE IN THE MATTER OF THE SATIS-
FACTORY SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF U.S. CITIZENS AGAINST
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND WE INTEND TO CONTINUE WORKING
TOGETHER WITH THEM AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS OF
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CONGRESS AS WE SEEK TO RESOLVE THIS LONG-STANDING ISSUE.
(FYI: CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S REPORTED LETTER NOT YET
RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT).

3. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO
CZECHOSLOVAK VISA POLICY WHICH RESTRICTS WESTERN REPORTERS

FROM COVERING DISSIDENTS?

ANSWER: WE WERE INFORMED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON JOURNALISTS WISHING TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA, OR THAT CORRESPONDENTS WHOSE WORK PRAGUE CONSIDERS "OBJECTIONABLE" WOULD NOT BE GRANTED VISAS. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSY IN PRAGUE TO REITERATE OUR CONCERN TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF SUCH A POLICY TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS POLICY WOULD WORK IN EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THE HELSINKI CSCE COMMITMENT OF PROMOTING A FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION AND OF IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS.

4. BOTH STORIES WILL BE CARRIED IN WIRELESS FILE.
NEITHER QUESTION WAS ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING 4/11.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, GOLD, INSTRUCTIONS, THE PRESS, VISAS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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